

Senate Resolution 24

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd, Burke of the 11th, Thompson of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to amend the allocation of funds collected through federal
2 motor fuel taxes; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the motor fuel (gas) tax has served as the primary source of transportation
4 funding in the United States for close to 100 years; and

5 WHEREAS, the federal gas tax has been set at 18.4¢ per gallon for more than two decades;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, receipts from the federal taxation of motor fuel, along with other highway-user
8 taxes, are deposited in the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is used to fund improvements
9 to highway facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, each state receives an allocation of federal funding for highway projects from
11 the Highway Trust Fund based upon state population; and

12 WHEREAS, capital outlays account for the largest category of disbursement from the
13 Highway Trust Fund in most states, followed by maintenance costs, transfers of funds to
14 local governments, service costs associated with borrowing funds, research and
15 administration, and enforcement and safety; and

16 WHEREAS, with motor vehicles becoming more fuel efficient every day and an increase in
17 the affordability of alternative fueled vehicles, it is important that the funds collected through
18 motor fuel taxes be allocated in the most efficient manner possible; and

19 WHEREAS, allowing states to keep a portion of the federal gas tax collected to be used for
20 capital construction instead of sending the full amount of the receipts to the Highway Trust
21 Fund would provide for more local control of funds and allow for infrastructure projects to
22 be delivered faster; and

23 WHEREAS, by removing the federal government from the capital construction funding
24 equation, projects could solely follow state guidelines and laws as opposed to the
25 burdensome and often time-consuming process involved when federal dollars are used; and

26 WHEREAS, by allowing a state to use 10¢ of the 18.4¢ collected per gallon under the federal
27 motor fuel tax for capital costs, such state could streamline projects, allowing critical
28 infrastructure projects to be constructed years faster than such projects are currently being
29 delivered.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 urge the Congress of the United States to amend the federal Highway Trust Fund allocation
32 process so as to allow states to retain 10¢ of the 18.4¢ per gallon motor fuel tax collected.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the members of the
35 Georgia congressional delegation.